

VITAE

 SPENCER LEON WILLIS, JR.

Department of Health and Human Performance
 Field House 100K
 Texas A&M University – Commerce
 Commerce, TX 75429
 903.886.5573
 Spencer.Willis@tamuc.edu

EDUCATION

- 2014 Doctor of Public Health JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, *Jackson, MS*
 Major: Behavioral Health Promotion and Education
Dissertation: “*The Influence of Outcome Expectations, Support for Beverage Excise Taxes, and the Nutrition Environment on Beverage Intake Frequency among African American Young Adults: A Pilot*”
 Advisor: D. Brown, EdD, MCHES
- 2009 Master of Arts THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, *Tuscaloosa, AL*
 Major: Health Studies (Health Promotion and Education)
- 2008 Bachelor of Science ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY, *Alcorn State, MS*
 Major: Nutrition and Dietetics
 Honors: Magna Cum Laude

CERTIFICATION

- CHES Certified Health Education Specialist, #18107 (October, 2010)
 National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Incorporated
 Whitehall, PA

PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARLY INTEREST

My research interests span the areas of nutrition and physical activity, theory-driven health promotion interventions, and health communications.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCEAcademia

- Assistant Professor (Professional Track) /Coordinator** 1/2014 - Present
 Academy for Health Potential
 Department of Health and Human Performance
 Texas A&M University – Commerce

Professional

- Abstract Reviewer** 4/2014
 2014 National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & the Nation Public Health Information Coalition
 Atlanta, GA
- Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE) Fellow** 1/2013 – 12/2013
 DHPE Health Promotion and Policy Fellowship Program
 Mississippi State Department of Health, Office of Preventive Health
 Jackson, MS
- Research Associate I** 6/2012 – 8/2012
 Health Disparities Summer Pre-doctoral Program
 Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research – The University of Michigan
 Ann Arbor, MI
- Public Health Educator (WIC Nutritionist)** 4/2010 – 12/2012
 Mississippi State Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program
 G.A. Carmichael Family Health Center
 Canton, MS

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University – Commerce

Undergraduate

HHPH 331: Nutrition

HHPH 410: Planning and Organization of Health Promotion

HHPH 420: Program Implementation and Evaluation in Health Promotion

HHPH 430: Health Promotion with Special Populations (*Online*)

Graduate

HHPH 544: Health Program Administration and Management (*Online*)

HHPH 585: Program Design in Health Promotion (*Online*)

Jackson State University

Graduate

PHS 519: Health Program and Evaluation (Guest Lecturer)

ABROAD EXPERIENCE

- Public Health Outreach Volunteer** 5/2012
 ProWorld Volunteers and Service Learning
 Cape Coast, Ghana

ABSTRACTS:

- The Society for Public Health Education, Portland, OR 4/2015
 66th Annual Meeting
Support for Beverage Excise Taxes and Beverage Intake Frequency among African American Adults: A Pilot (Presenter)
- Directors of Health Promotion and Education, Minneapolis, MN 8/2013
 Annual Members Meeting
Diabetes Self-Management Education in Mississippi's County-Level Public Health Clinics: Feasibility and Impact (Presenter)
- Empowering Communities for a Healthy Mississippi, Jackson, MS 5/2013
 Annual Conference
Innovations in Health Literacy and Coordinated School Health – Panel discussion with Christine Philley, M.Ed & Estelle Watts, MSN, RN from MS Department of Education (Panel Moderator)
- Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA), Tunica, MS 9/2011
 Annual Conference and Business Meeting
Informing Obesity Prevention Strategies: The Use of Self-Regulatory Text Messages in Improving Healthy Beverage Intake among Families Participating in a State's WIC Program – A Pilot Study: 2011 (Presenter)
- Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA 9/2011
 4th Annual Health Disparities Conference
Measuring Impact of Text Messages, Tailored Print Material, and Standard Issued Brochures on Knowledge of Proper Infant Feeding Practices among Mothers Participating in the Mississippi WIC Program – A Pilot Study: 2011 (Presenter)
- Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), Jackson, MS 9/2010
National Diabetes Education Program: Road to Health Toolkit NDEP Road to Health Toolkit-Diet & Nutrition Section: 2010 (Presenter)
- Jackson State University, Jackson, MS 4/2010
 School of Health Sciences - Graduate Programs in Public Health
 National Public Health Week
"Nutrition 101" – Powell Middle School 2010 (Presenter)
- The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 9/2009
10th Annual Rural Health Conference – "Prevention: More Than Just an Apple a Day"
Green County KidCheck: PRECEDE-PROCEED Evaluation 2009 (Presenter)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 8/2007
 Morehouse College
 Project: IMHOTEP Internship Final Presentations
Homicide Rates and Circumstances among Males Aged 15-34 in 17 States: The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) 2007 (Presenter)

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SESSIONS:

Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), Jackson, MS <i>Shaping Policy for Health™ Course 2: Using Policy Analysis Tools</i>	8/2013
Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), Jackson, MS <i>Shaping Policy for Health™ Course 4: Implementing Enacted Policies</i>	3/2013
Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), Jackson, MS <i>Shaping Policy for Health™ Course 3: Influencing the Policy Change Process</i>	3/2013
University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS <i>Community Health Advocate Program</i>	2/2013
National Association of City and County Health Officials, Alexandria, VA <i>Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Training</i>	2/2013
Jackson State University, School of Health Sciences, Jackson, MS <i>Preconception Peer Educator Certification Training</i>	1/2012
Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), Jackson, MS <i>“BodyWorks” Train the Trainer Session</i>	9/2010

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY:

Willis, S. (in progress) *“Support for Beverage Excise Taxes and Sugar Sweetened Beverage Intake among African American Adults: A Pilot”*

Rodriguez, M.A. and **Willis, S.** (data collection) *“Promoting Healthy Food Purchases at Vending Machines on a Rural University Campus: A Health Communications Approach”*

Carlow, K. and **Willis, S.** (data collection) *“The Effectiveness of a Workplace Health Communications Intervention on Knowledge and Behavior”*

Willis, S. (in progress) *“The Effectiveness of Communication Interventions on Improving Dietary Behaviors: A Systematic Review”*

Willis, S. (data collection) *“Design and Implementation of a Lifestyle Modification Program for Low-Income Families: A Pilot”*

Willis, S. (data collection) *“Evaluating the Nutrition Environment on and Near the Campus of a Rural East Texas University”*

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

A&M Commerce Student Wellness Committee 1/2014-present
Faculty Search Committee (Sport and Recreation Management) Spring 2015

GRANTS:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA 2/2013
“State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity
and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health”
Amount Funded: Basic \$618,805 Enhanced \$1,119,272

American Academy of Pediatrics, Mississippi Chapter, Jackson, MS 3/2012
“Design and Implementation of a ‘Healthy Beverage’ Health Communication Campaign
among central Mississippi’s adolescents: An Application of the Self Determination
Theory (SDT)” **Amount Funded:** Mini grant \$500.00